(b) if so, what is the amount of arrears outstanding against these airlines; and

(c) what are the difficulties in realising the arrears and manner in which Government propose to collect the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of over Rs. 14 crores is estimated to be outstanding against M/s. East-West Airines, as Inland Air Travel Tax for the period March, 1992 to February, 1993.

(c) Since M/s. East-West Airlines did not pay the Inland Air Travel Tax leviable under the provisions of the Finance Act, 1989, a show cause notice was issued to the airlines demanding the arreas of the taxes due to be paid by them. While the adjudication proceedings were in progress, the airlines filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court inter-alia seeking stay of the proceedings. The Hon'ble High Court has directed that on the petitioner depositing a sum of Rs. 4 crores within four weeks from the date of the order (26.7.93) there shall be stay of further proceedings in pursuance of the impugned notices.

Payment of DA to Central Government employees

948. SHRIMATI KAILISHPATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for payment to the Central Government employees since 1st July, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the detils thereof;

(c) by when the instalment is likely to be released and paid;

(d) whether Government propose to merge a part of the dearness allowance with the basic pay of the employees;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing formula, based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, one additional instalment of dearness allowance due to the Central Government employees from 1st July, 1993, will become payable with the salary for the month of September, 1993.

(d) to (f) On the basis of the demand raised by the Staff side of the National Council (JCM), the question of treating a portion of dearness allowance as dearness pay for certain purposes is under consideration.

सीमा शुल्क विभाग द्वारा निषिद्ध वस्तुओं का जब्त किया जाना

949. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सीमा शुल्क विभाग द्वारा गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान वर्षवार और राज्यवार जितना सोना, कितने रिवाल्वर और अन्य निषिद्ध वस्तुएं जब्त की गई ;

(ख) क्या उक्त अवधि के दौरान इन वस्तुओं को जब्त करने वाले किसी सीमा शुल्क अधिकारी को पुरस्कार-स्वरूप पदोन्नति दी गई है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) इस संबंध में सरकार की नीति क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Merger of loss making Banks

950. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided for the merger of

those public sector banks which are in shambles;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to privatise those sick Public Sector Banks which are beyond restructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) A proposal or merger of one nationalised bank with another nationalised bank is under consideration. It will not be in public interest to disclose the details of the proposal at this stage. Besides, Government have received a preposal from the State Bank of India for the merger of its seven Associate Banks into a single Associate Bank. Government have solicited the views of Reserve Bank of India on the proposal.

(c) While presenting the Union Budget for 1993-94, the Finance Minister had stated that Government have decided that State Bank of India as well as other nationalised banks which are in a position to do so will be allowed to access the capital markets to rase fresh equity to meet their shortfall in capital requirements over the next three years. Finance Minister had also stated that Government will continue to retain majority ownership and, therefore, effective control in the public sector banks.

Outstanding Income-Tax, Excise duty and Customs Duty

951. CHAUDHERY HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what is the amount of income tax, Central Excise duty and Customs duty outstanding, separately, as on 31st March, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SH. M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): The amounts of Income tax, Central Excise duty and Customs duty outstanding as on 31ts Marh, 1993 were Rs. 925900.00 lakhs (provisional), Rs. 192934.52 lakhs and Rs. 11509.49 lakhs respectievely.

DRI inquiry into the operations of Private Airlines

952. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recntly started an investigation into the operation of private airlines to ascertain whether they had adhered to the procedures while importing aircrafts; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The doubt regarding import of second hand aircraft by private taxi operators was referred to the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, who has since clarified that import of such aircrafts are covered by Public Notice No. 10-ITC (PN)-1992-97 dated 30th April, 1992.

तम्बाकू उत्पादों पर उपकर लगाया जाना

953. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह**: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार पहले तम्बाकू से उपकर वसूल करती थी किन्तु अब उसने तम्बाकू के बजाय बीड़ी और सिगरेट से उपकर वसूल करना आरंभ कर दिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पहले तम्बाकू पर उपकर से प्रति वर्ष कितनी राशि प्राप्त होती थी और अब बीड़ी तथा सिगरेट पर उपकर लगाए जाने से प्राप्त हो रही अलग-अलग राशियों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति): (क) बीड़ी कामगार कल्याण उपकर अधिनियम, 1976 के अन्तर्गत